

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A gaming system, comprising:
  - at least two gaming components, each gaming component comprising:
    - a controller; and
    - 5 a communications interface; and
    - a communication link to allow the controllers of the gaming components to communicate with other controllers of other gaming components on a peer-to-peer basis through the communication interfaces.
2. The gaming system of claim 1, wherein one of the at least two gaming components  
10 comprises a game processing unit.
3. The gaming system of claim 2, wherein at least two gaming components comprises two gaming components operable to communicate directly without the game processing unit.
4. The gaming system of claim 1, wherein at least two gaming components are selected from the group comprised of: a game processing unit, a camera, a printer, a storage device, a  
15 coin hopper, a light display, button panels, a ticket reader, a bill validator, a speaker, a microphone, a card reader, a biometric device, and a keypad.
5. The gaming system of claim 1, the link to allow communications between the other components without any interaction of a game processing unit.
6. The gaming system of claim 2, the link to allow communications between the other  
20 components without any interaction of a game processing unit.
7. The gaming system of claim 1, the gaming system further comprising a second communications link, wherein one link is used by gaming components arranged in a cabinet and one link is used for communications between components arranged in the cabinet and components located outside of the cabinet.

8. The gaming system of claim 1, the communications link further to allow gaming components to be added and removed while power is on.
  9. The gaming system of claim 1, the communications link further to provide power to at least one gaming component.
- 5     10. The gaming system of claim 1, the communications link further comprising a link compliant with IEEE 1394.
11. A gaming system, comprising
- at least two gaming components arranged in a cabinet, each gaming component comprising:
- 10       a controller; and
- a communications interface;
- at least one gaming component located outside the cabinet;
- an interior communications link to allow the gaming components arranged in the cabinet to communicate with other components arranged in the cabinet;
- 15       an exterior communications link to allow the gaming components arranged in the cabinet to communicate with the gaming component located outside the cabinet; and
- a bridge to provide connection between the interior communications link and the exterior communications link.
12. The gaming system of claim 11, wherein one of at least two gaming components arranged
- 20       in a cabinet comprises a game processing unit.
13. The gaming system of claim 12, wherein at least two gaming components comprises at least two gaming components operable to communicate directly without the game processing unit.
14. The gaming system of claim 11, wherein the interior communication link comprises an
- 25       IEEE 1394 backplane communications bus.

15. The gaming system of claim 11, wherein the exterior communications link further comprises an IEEE 1394 cabled communications bus.
16. The gaming system of claim 11, the remote communications link further to provide power to at least one gaming component remote from the cabinet.

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